**African culture before European Contact**

By; Mike Crouse & Samantha Barley

First paragraph: Africa the largest continent has a Mediterranean climate and includes the Sahara Dessert and the grassland called Sudan. These grasslands have wet and dry seasons and are home to many large grazing animals.

Second paragraph: Africa includes mountains which reach altitudes high enough for snow, this includes Mt. Kilimanjaro. The Rift Valley , home of the Skeleton named Lucy, runs from East Africa to Asia Minor and is believed to be the first home of humans.

Third Paragraph: A fifth of Africa’s area is rainforest, in this enviroment there are many varieties of plants and trees. The insects in the rainforset can be dangerouse to animals and humans, therefor no animals are used to transport things through the rainforest.

Forth Paragraph: Most Rivers in Africa are not condussive to transportation because of their rough water. The trade began to develop on the East coast where a mixture of Bantu grammer and Arabian vocabulary mixed top produce Swahili.

Fifth paragraph: Cush the orginall advanced Afric settelers are recorded in records from Muslim travelers and also from the Egyptians. The Cush once conquered the Egyptians, and they have their own Hieroglyphics that is yet untranslated.

Sixth Paragraph: The Sudan is home to rich African culture due to salt trade from the North and gold from the South. West Africa has provided as much as 2/3 of the worlds gold before 1350.

Seventh Paragraph: Mali was the next kingdom in power, they were influenced by Islam and there King traveled to Mecca. On his jorney he gave away enough gold to depleat its value as well as meeting Ibn Battuta who noted the African womens freedom and the cultures hatred of injustice.

Eighth Paragraph: The Coast of West Africa archeologist have found traces of the Nok culture which was one of the first cultures of West Africa. Benin, a major city, was still thriving in 1606 when Eorupeans arrived.

Ninth Paragraph: In Southeren Africa down the Zambezi River there is the Aimbabwe ruins that includes a very large building. The people of this place once mined gold, but by the time Europeans Reached it the area was deserted.

Tenth Paragraph: From the article you can tell that the rich African cultures have developed. The Africans acheivments in artistic and inteligence are compareable to those of Europe at the same time.